GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:557
ANSWERED ON:06.02.2017
Weather Forecast for Tourists
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Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry, in coordination with Indian Meteorological Department and State Governments, contemplated providing accurate real-time weather forecast, as against daily forecast, to tourists visiting famous tourist places in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (c): Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has informed that it provides information on its website comprising observed maximum temperature, minimum temperature, their departure from normal, 24-hour rainfall, sky condition and sunset/sunrise, moonset/moonrise timings alongwith 7-day weather forecasts of temperature, rainfall and warnings of 325 cities across the country.

Information on extreme weather events in the month alongwith all-time records, climatological data about mean daily maximum, minimum temperature, total rainfall, number of rainy days and mean number of days with hail, thunder, fog and squall etc. is also provided. These cities include 106 tourist destinations across the country for which 7-day forecast is being issued twice a day. The information is posted on IMD website.
In addition, to expand the dissemination of the weather forecasts to tourists, the information regarding the prevailing weather and the forecast of various cities, is also provided on toll free number 1800 180 1717 through Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS). IMD has also developed a mobile App called "Indian Weather" by which initially, current weather and 4-days forecast for 300 cities is being provided.

IMD has also commenced 'nowcast' for extreme weather events like thunderstorm (3-hours validity) for 147 stations in the country. IMD also issue special forecasts for pilgrims of Char-Dham yatra, Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra, Sri Amarnathji Yatra and Kumbh Mela. IMD has recently started weather information for Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine comprising of (i) Yatra Route Weather Advisory, (ii) current observations, (iii) 6-hourly low level wind and temperature forecasts for helicopter operation; and (iv) 3-day forecasts & warnings for Jammu Division. Similar service is also being expanded to various other pilgrim/tourist destinations across the country with a focussed effort for Himalayan region and Severe Weather Warnings through various schemes.

Recently, highway forecasts have also been introduced by India Meteorological Department in the states of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Pudducherry.

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